

1959

Collection of Jackson Daily News clippings about Piney Woods and fundraising letter

Jackson Daily News

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WEATHER

Partly cloudy and warm through Wednesday with chance of showers today. A high of about 86 today with a low of about 66 tonight. Winds southerly at about 18 miles per hour. Outlook for Thursday: little change.

Covering the CROSS-ROADS



with Jimmy Ward

President Eisenhower has given the senior class at the Air Force Academy some fine advice. "Make sure your face doesn't grow longer every day. Go to bed with a smile and you'll find a long, happy fruitful life — Fruitful to your country and to humanity." The President's words are refreshing. How does a guy who spends the day learning how to drop hydrogen bombs conjure up anything sufficiently funny to drop off into dreamland with a smile on his face?

There is so much injustice in the world today. For instance, out in Los Angeles James A. Cathey, 27, dropped into a bar to stage a holdup. He killed one man and wounded another who tried to stop him. Police said most of the 30 persons in the bar jumped on Cathey, battered him with bottles, fists and his own gun. The thinking citizens of the nation deplore mob violence of this sort, the taking the law into one's own hands, punishing an accused person without being convicted in court and subjecting him to inhuman cruelty. Here is a perfect case of mob rule and lynching but the nation will not give it a second thought because it happened out in Los Angeles and so much crime goes on out there until it won't rate the front pages in the newspapers and Tuskegee Institute's lynch scorekeeper just lost his pencil.

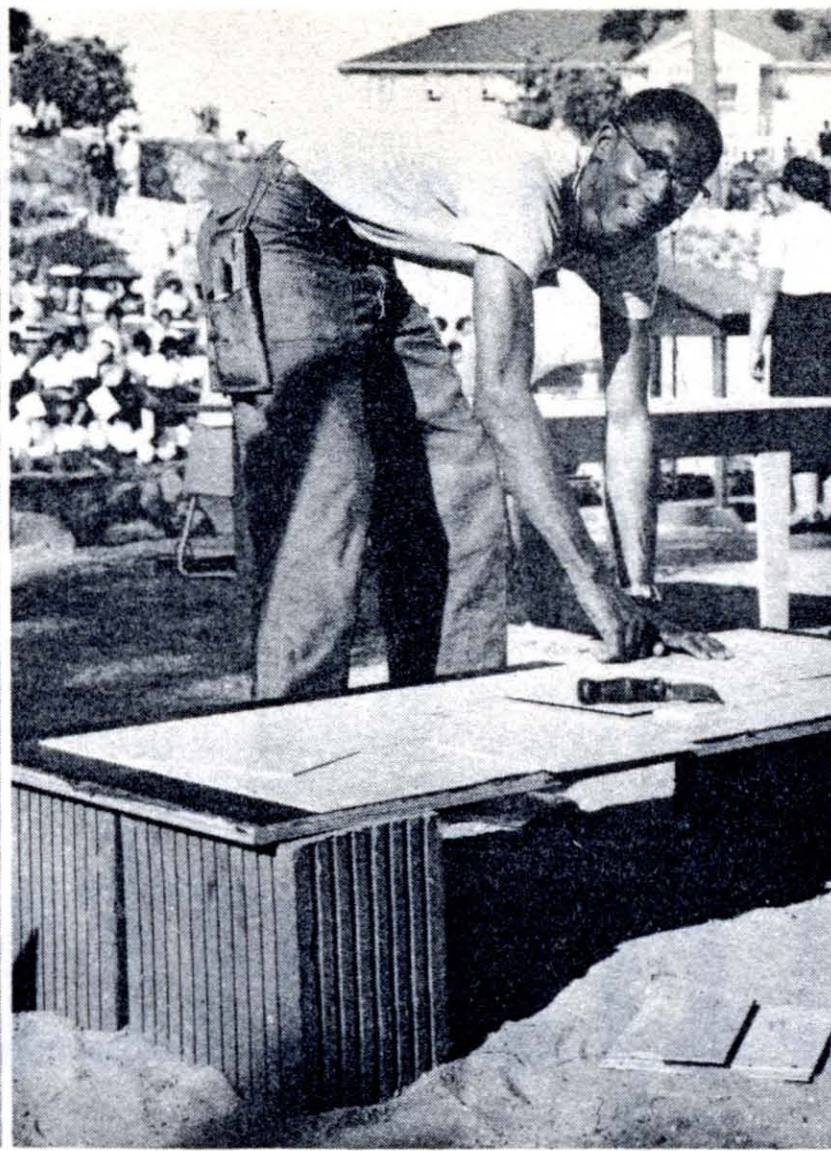
Two-Snap, a frog which the trainer fed bumblebees for breakfast, is the official 1959 frog jumping champion of the world in a contest held out at Angels Camp, Calif. Two-Snap made a three-hop leap of 15 feet, 1 1/2 inches — just 8 1/2 inches short of the world mark set in 1954. Any critter with a bumblebee buzzing around in his belly ought to leap at least 50 yards in three tries.

Researchers at the Jodrell Bank radio telescope in London claim they have been able to bounce Brahams, Beethoven and Bach to Boston from the moon. This can be taken too far. Think of the jitters the moon would get if "I Ain't Nothin' But a Houn' Dog" would be beamed to the moon.

The Air Force has released a set of clear photographs made from the nose cone of a Thor missile showing the separation of the nose cone from the rocket over 125 miles up. The film was recovered from the Atlantic about 1,400 miles from the launch point. The moral of this story is keep smiling. The Air Force might be snapping your picture.

Clark Mollenhoff, Washington correspondent for Cowles Newspapers and Look Magazine, told a newspaper fraternity in Chicago that several areas of the news are suffering from poor reporting, including race relations, where "specialists from the North" tour the South reporting "slanted" news "for the purpose of inflaming." The statement was made at a 50th anniversary of Sigma Delta Chi, journalistic fraternity, which a few moments earlier presented 15 awards for outstanding achievements in press, magazine, radio, television and research work — several of the honors going to "Specialists" on the South.

THO THE RED SHELLS HITIN' MATSU AT GENEVA MAY BE AIMED TRUST THE REDS'LL SOON FIND OUT THE WEST AIN'T NEAR THAT EASY TAMED



GRADUATION CEREMONIES HELD AT PINEY WOODS COUNTRY LIFE SCHOOL

The new rock amphi-theater, rebuilt after last February's tornado, was the setting for the 50th commencement of the famed Piney Woods Country Life School. At left is Joseph A. Ford, dressed in the national costume of his native Ethiopia. Ford is attending the school on a special scholarship. He is shown with Eula Kelly Moman, the treasurer of Piney

Woods and a former student herself. Second photo: Dr. Laurence C. Jones, the "little Professor" who has been building a dream with "two hands and a heart." The brick dormitory in the background is evidence of his achievement. Third from left: Bennie Windham demonstrates tile laying methods

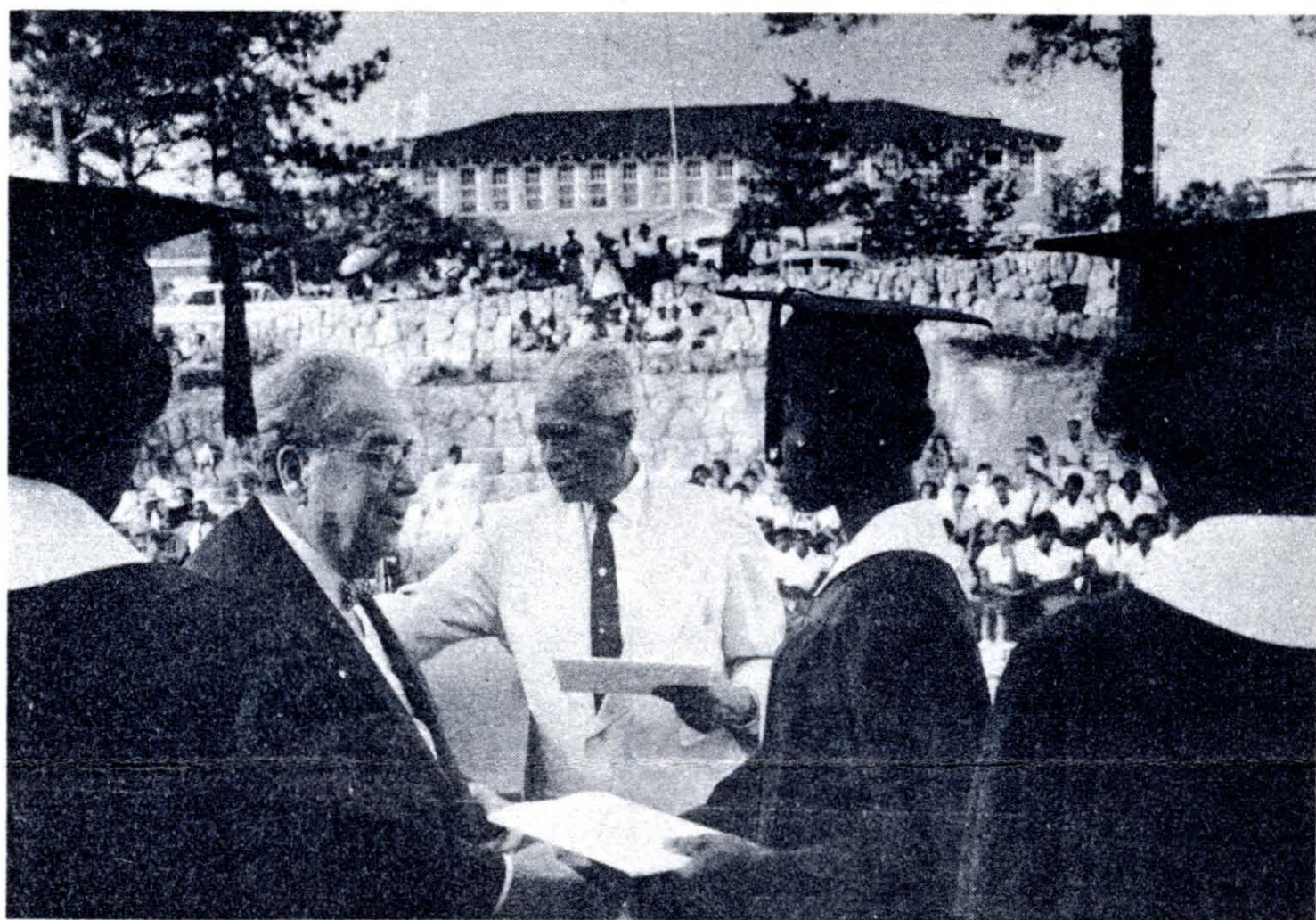
learned at Piney Woods School. Right photo: Deonia Jones of Jackson, left, and Gloria Moore of Smithdale, right, prepare a meal onstage, to demonstrate more of the practical skills learned at the school.—Daily News Staff Photos by Norm Bergsma.

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PRESENTING THE DIPLOMAS

Framed by graduating seniors Dr. Preston Bradley of the Peoples' Church in Chicago, Ill., and Dr. Laurence C. Jones, founder of the Piney Woods School prepare to present diplomas to members of the senior class.

Know-How Shown At Piney Woods

Students Demonstrate Skills During Unique Commencement

By BONITA APPLETON Daily News Staff Writer

A unique but traditional commencement exercise that included vaccinating a squealing porker and preparing a full course dinner on stage was enacted yesterday at Piney Woods Country Life School.

Visitors from several states and Old Mexico watched chin-high students capably demonstrates practical skills they had learned while acquiring an education.

And friends and parents sat proudly in the newly constructed rock amphi-theater among the tall pines and sweetgum trees and watched with quiet happiness as the 50th commencement exercises got underway with familiar spirituals.

The exercises marked a half century of struggle for a school that began under an oak tree, passed through two tornadoes and three fires and has continued to grow.

"Piney Woods School for colored boys and girls is a 'work your way' school where needy young people without a dollar, but the determination to get a practical education can come and work his or her way from breakfast to commencement and a diploma," said Dr. Laurence C. Jones, beloved founder and president of the school.

"This school is different from the ordinary conception of a school, because Piney Woods School is a way of life," he said. "It has continued to grow as a result of racial cooperation and good will. It would take pages to tell of the friendly co-operation from local white friends, churches, and the Jackson newspapers that have had a big part in the building up of the Piney Woods School."

Dr. Preston Bradley, pastor of the Peoples' Church in Chicago, Ill., delivered the commencement address. Paying tribute to Dr. Jones, he quoted Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Every great institution is the lengthening shadow of a great personality."

Dr. Bradley told the group that the "Little Professor of Piney Woods" had begun to build "with two hands, a heart, and a dream." The graduates were reminded that the real product of any school is character.

SEWS STRAIGHT SEAM

Shirley Jenkins of Braxton demonstrated the method of sewing a straight seam when making a uniform skirt. She began with step one "get the measurements of the person for whom the garment is being made. Press the material, lay the pattern on the straight of the grain to keep the seams co-

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Continued from page 1 rect. Cut it out and fit it to make sure there will be no necessary alterations, thread the machine and make sure you are sewing straight." She then sat down on stage and proceeded to make the garment, calmly under scores of eyes watching every move.

Ruth Pierce pointed out the necessity for well balanced diets and reminded that "proper food gives energy for work and play, is vital to a long life and makes for a happy disposition." The meal prepared on stage by Gloria Moore of Smithdale and Deonia Jones of Jackson included fried chicken, potato salad, sliced tomatoes, turnip greens, cornbread, iced tea and sweet potato pie delicious enough to make anybody forget the caloric counter.

Barbara Wheaton of Montrose set the table and served the meal. Laying tile, Bennie Windham reminded that "you must first smooth the rough places, fill all the cracks in the floor, sand it free of dust and leave the room by using the two straightest walls. Lay the tile from the center of the room," he said as he went to his work bench and began.

White shirts fresh from the laundry couldn't have looked better than the ones Emma Dell Williams finished ironing. She told the audience to "make sure your iron and ironing board cover are clean, set the iron and begin." When ironing a shirt, "first iron the yoke, then the cuffs, the inside of the collar, the sleeves, then begin with the front and iron the shirt. Lastly, iron the outside of the collar."

Folding the shirt was another art in itself and Emma Dell is past master of that technique as well: "First button the shirt, then fold one side to the center, take the other side and fold to meet it. Then fold from the bottom half way and then fold again."

MAKES BRICK Furr Smith demonstrated the brickmaking technique that has enabled the school to be entirely self sufficient. Smith told the group

that the school can produce 1500 to 2000 bricks a day using sand that comes from the river nearby. Anyone who's ever needed a plumber would have listened intently as Eddie Johnson and Charlie Foster explained the intricacies of their job. The two then proceeded to connect a kitchen sink. Band member Edith Faye Powell who has played music for seven years proved her ability to direct a band, and direct it well. "Build a firm foundation."

She then began with the basses and explained the purpose and the sounds of each section of the band. Then she assembled them into one group and played the march "Building a Band" for the audience.

Jesse James Hayward told of painting techniques and before the interested eyes of the audience showed how to paint a wall. Hazel McMichael of Kosciusko reviewed the method of straining milk and making butter used in the dairy at Piney Woods. John Mixon of Poplarville told of his work in the dry cleaning plant while Earl Stewart gave helpful hints to follow when selecting a dairy cow. "Look for bright eyes, a strong backbone, and an appearance of contentment," he pointed out.

Earl Needham of Decatur told of the necessity of vaccination and then he and helper Samuel Monroe of DeKalb calmly vaccinated a squealing porker on stage. Betty Jo Johnson told of the work of the Glee Club and then led the group in singing the spirituals "Ride on King Jesus" and "Old Ship of Zion". Argola Smith and Catherine Roman exhibited their skill at mimeographing a message that came out letter perfect and sharp as an original copy.

The 1959 graduating class represents 17 counties in Mississippi and Arkansas. The oldest member of the class was 31-year-old Katie Adams of Kosciusko and the youngest was 17-year-old Margaret Ann Tate of Hazlehurst. Out of state visitors included those from Illinois, Iowa, Colorado, Mexico City, Mexico, and Alabama.

This reprint from the Jackson Daily News tells, in story and picture, the "best" Commencement program in Piney Woods history.

We appreciate this story because it not only gives Piney Woods great publicity, but also shows what our "Home Folks" think of us. It is with a feeling of great humility and pride that I send you this reprint.

Laurence C. Jones



BRICKMAKING SKILLS DEMONSTRATED

William L. Walker (left) and Leon Grove (right) handle the brickmaking machine and left the soft brick at the end of their demonstration. Students at Piney Woods have made bricks used in every building on the school campus.



VACCINATION TIME AT COMMENCEMENT

Clither Rogers (left) and Jefferson Ross, (right) work together to show the quickest way of vaccinating a pig during commencement exercises at Piney Woods School. Vaccination is only one of the many practical skills learned at

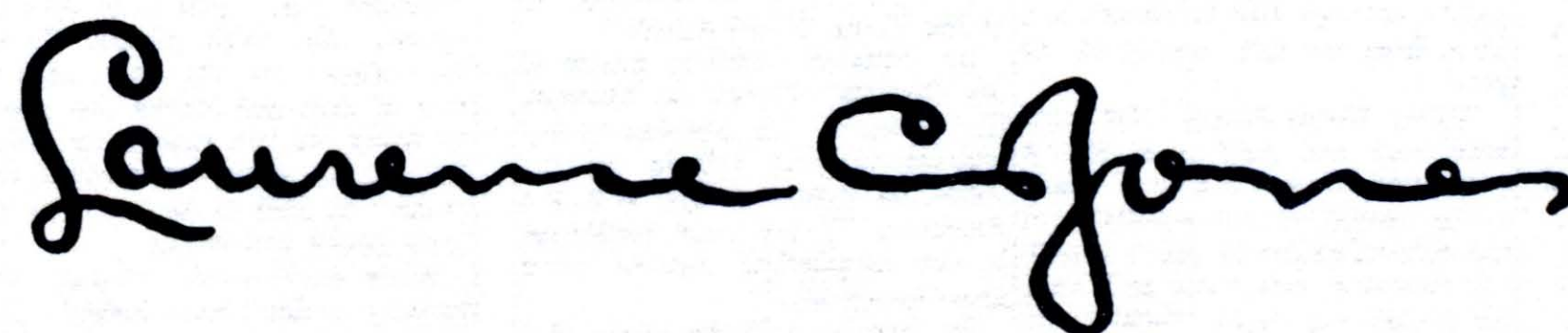
Christmas 1959

Piney Woods School thanks you for your help this year. Your contributions have made it possible for us to continue to educate the Head, Hand and Heart.

The pictures and story of our last Commencement shown in miniature on the other side show the kind of education you are supporting.

We do not have a sob story to tell--But if convenient, we will be very grateful this Christmas for any gift you may send.

*You have our prayers for a
Happy Christmas Season and a
Prosperous New Year.*



Piney Woods School
Piney Woods, Mississippi